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SOUTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

1986

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The Supreme Court of South Carolina

J. B. NESS
CHIEF JUSTICE

POST OFFICE BOX 909
BAMBERG, S. C. 29003

April 30, 1987

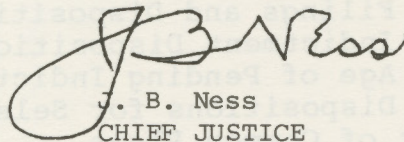
TO: The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell
The Honorable Rembert C. Dennis
The Honorable Robert H. Sheheen
Citizens of South Carolina

RE: Judicial Department Annual Report for 1986

I have reported with some measure of pride that the appellate backlog is gone and the caseload in the Circuit Court and Family Court is, in most counties, exactly where it should be. The lawyers and judges throughout the State have responded very well to our efforts to streamline the system in favor of the litigants. Our continued success in this area is indicative of the excellent health of our state court system.

This Report contains a brief discussion of the Boards and Commissions within this department, caseload statistics from each level of court, and concludes with personnel and other financial information gathered from our 1986 Judicial Survey of the offices of Clerk of Court, Probate Judge, Master-In-Equity, Public Defender, Magistrate and Municipal Judge.

Respectfully submitted,


J. B. Ness
CHIEF JUSTICE

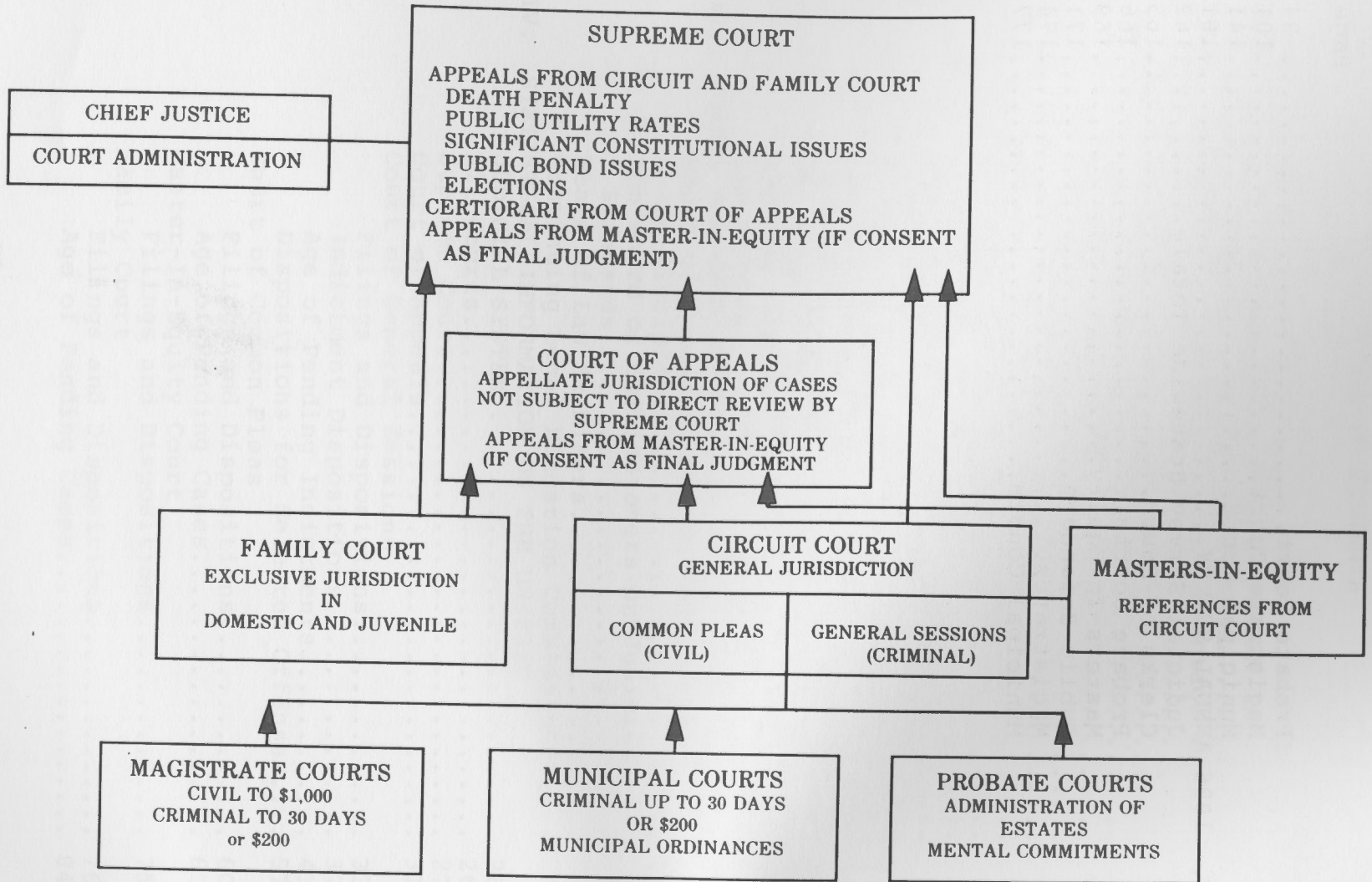
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SOUTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL SYSTEM



JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF STATE APPROPRIATIONS

Office or Program	80/81	81/82	82/83	83/84	84/85	85/86	86/87
Supreme Court	\$984,583	\$1,173,238	\$1,311,058	\$1,457,356	\$1,547,641	\$1,798,990	\$2,188,158
Board of Law Examiners	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,500	18,650	18,650
Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline	55,657	56,990	58,510	56,351	64,406	56,294	58,613
Judicial Standards Commission	31,468	36,108	38,821	41,334	47,472	50,594	53,088
Court of Appeals	0	0	0	977,100	1,167,079	1,184,787	1,246,622
Circuit Courts	3,607,219	3,811,841	4,200,328	4,295,942	4,712,295	5,005,092	5,211,123
Family Courts	3,788,540	3,908,438	4,405,757	4,388,372	4,948,879	5,209,679	5,427,765
Court Administration	499,726	587,387	702,162	844,055	921,794	1,177,919	1,262,966
Finance and Personnel	344,552	355,459	142,148	489,586	576,530	622,863	292,094
Defense of Indigents	774,641	1,003,243	1,003,243	1,003,243	1,230,303	1,437,363	1,642,767
Judicial Commitment	470,000	335,000	600,000	372,100	380,171	380,171	380,171
Miscellaneous	2,026,457	2,373,286	2,829,578	3,109,872	3,574,530	3,922,211	4,157,656
TOTAL JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT	12,601,343	13,659,490	15,310,105	17,053,811	19,189,600	20,864,613	21,939,673
TOTAL STATE APPROPRIATIONS	1,727,025,707	1,918,174,826	2,047,753,736	2,121,900,556	2,349,764,086	2,600,174,185	2,761,121,639
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT SHARE	0.73%	0.71%	0.75%	0.80%	0.82%	0.80%	0.79%

Miscellaneous includes employer contributions not broken down by program, general base pay increases and merit increment funds not broken down by program.
Federal Funds, supplemental and/or deficiency appropriations are not included in Total Judicial or Total State.

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM GENERALLY

The judicial system of South Carolina is composed of the courts, the prosecution, and the defense components. The courts include the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Circuit Courts, Family Courts, Magisterial Courts, Municipal Courts, Probate Courts, and Master-In-Equity Courts. The prosecutorial system is made up of the circuit solicitors and the Office of the Attorney General. The defense component includes public defender corporations, court appointed counsel, retained counsel, and the Office of Appellate Defense.

THE SUPREME COURT

The state's highest tribunal is the Supreme Court. The court has both original and appellate jurisdiction, but generally acts only in its appellate capacity. When the Court of Appeals was activated on September 1, 1983, the Supreme Court reserved exclusive jurisdiction over cases on certiorari from the Court of Appeals and five classes of appeals directly from the circuit and family courts. The five classes are cases which involve (1) the death penalty, (2) public utility rates, (3) significant constitutional issues, (4) public bond issues and, (5) the election laws. Other appeals from the circuit and family courts are still apportioned between the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court renders decisions based on lower court transcripts, briefs, and oral arguments. In addition to hearing and deciding cases, the court also has rulemaking authority for the unified judicial system and controls admissions to and disciplining of the South Carolina Bar. The Supreme Court is composed of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices who are elected by the South Carolina General Assembly for terms of ten years. The terms are rotated and a justice may be re-elected to any number of terms. (See Article V of the South Carolina Constitution.)

THE COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals was created to hear most types of appeals from the circuit court and the family court. Exceptions are when the appeal falls within any of the five classes listed above, or when the appeal is certified for determination by the Supreme Court.

The Court of Appeals is the judicial system's newest court, commencing operation on September 1, 1983. It consists of a Chief Judge and five associate judges who are elected to staggered terms of six years each. The court sits either as two panels of three judges each or as a whole, and it may hear oral arguments and motions in any county of the state.

THE CIRCUIT COURT

The Circuit Court is the state's court of general jurisdiction. It is divided into a civil court, the Court of Common Pleas, and a criminal court, the Court of General Sessions. In addition to its general trial jurisdiction, the Circuit Court has limited appellate jurisdiction over appeals from the Probate Court, Magistrate's Court, and Municipal Court. The State is divided into sixteen judicial circuits. Each circuit has at least one resident circuit judge who maintains his office in his home county within the circuit. There are thirty-one circuit judges and they serve the sixteen circuits on a rotating basis, with court terms and assignments determined by the Chief Justice based upon recommendations of Court Administration.

THE FAMILY COURT

The uniform statewide Family Court system was established by statute in 1976. The Family Courts have exclusive jurisdiction of all matters involving domestic or family relationships. (Section 20-7-420). Pursuant to this provision, the Family Courts are the sole forum for the hearing of all cases concerning marriage, divorce, legal separation, custody, visitation rights, termination of parental rights, adoption, support, alimony, division of marital property, and change of name. The courts also generally have exclusive jurisdiction over minors under the age of seventeen alleged to have violated any state law or municipal ordinance. However, most traffic and fish and game law violations are still triable in the magistrates or municipal courts. Serious criminal charges may be transferred to the Circuit Court.

The Family Court follows the territorial boundaries of the sixteen judicial circuits with forty-six judges who rotate primarily from county to county within their resident circuit, but also to other circuits based upon caseload requirements as directed by the Chief Justice.

THE MAGISTERIAL COURT

There are approximately 317 magistrates in South Carolina, ranging from 2 to 19 per county. They are appointed by the Governor upon the advice and consent of the Senate, with terms of either two or four years. (South Carolina Constitution Article V, Section 23.) Magistrates have criminal trial jurisdiction over all offenses which are subject to the penalty of a fine not exceeding \$200 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days. (Section 22-3-550.) In addition, magistrates are responsible for setting bail, conducting preliminary hearings, and issuing arrest and search warrants. Magistrates have civil jurisdiction when the amount in controversy does not exceed \$1,000. (Section 22-3-10.) However, in landlord-tenant matters and cases of bastardy their jurisdiction is not limited by a dollar amount. (Section 22-3-10 (10) and (12).)

THE MUNICIPAL COURT

Legislation in 1980 substantially changed the municipal courts of this state by establishing a uniform system of municipal courts to be part of the unified judicial system. The act repeals by implication all statutes which created different types of municipal courts not in conformity with the new system (e.g., Mayor's and Recorder's Courts).

Municipal Courts have no civil jurisdiction, but have criminal jurisdiction over all state offenses and municipal ordinances subject to a fine not exceeding \$200 or imprisonment not exceeding thirty (30) days, and which occur within the municipality. (Sections 14-25-45 and 14-25-65). The term of a municipal judge is set by the council of the municipality, but cannot exceed four (4) years. (Section 14-25-15).

THE PROBATE COURT

Each county in South Carolina has a popularly elected Probate Judge who serves a four-year term. Probate courts have jurisdiction over estates of deceased persons, guardianships of minors and incompetents and involuntary commitments to mental institutions. (Section 14-23-210 et seq.)

MASTER-IN-EQUITY

In 1979 the legislature established the current Master-In-Equity system. The master is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the General Assembly for a term of four years. The master may serve in a full or part-time capacity and is compensated by the county governing body. The Master-In-Equity has jurisdiction in equity matters referred to that court by the Circuit Court. The master has the power and authority of the circuit court sitting without a jury, to regulate all proceedings in every hearing before him and to do all acts and take all measures necessary or proper for the efficient performance of his duties under the order of reference. This includes the power to rule on all motions, require the production of evidence, rule upon the admissibility of evidence and call witnesses and examine them under oath. Masters may also conduct sales under certain circumstances. There are twenty Masters-In-Equity currently sitting. Final orders based on reports of masters are executed by circuit judges except where the master enters final judgment under limited circumstances. Appeals from final judgments entered by a master are to the Circuit Court unless otherwise directed by order of the Circuit Court or by consent by the parties.

SOUTH CAROLINA COURT ADMINISTRATION

The Office of South Carolina Court Administration was established in 1973 pursuant to the new Judicial Article, Section 4, Article V, South Carolina Constitution, which provides that the Chief Justice shall appoint an Administrator of the Courts and such assistants as he deems necessary to aid in the administration of the courts of the State. The State Court Administrator serves as the Director of the Office of South Carolina Court Administration. It is the administrative arm of the Chief Justice in his capacity as the administrative head of the state judicial system.

The concept of an Office of Court Administration was developed throughout the nation with the idea that courts have reached the point where they require the use of sound business management methods in carrying out their responsibilities as part of the judicial branch of government. All fifty states and the federal court system currently have an office of court administration or its equivalent.

The Office of South Carolina Court Administration engages in a wide range of responsibilities and duties. A sampling of these activities follows:

1. Recommends to the Chief Justice the scheduling of terms of Circuit Court and the assignment of judges to preside over these terms.
2. Recommends to the Chief Justice the scheduling of terms of Family Court and the assignment of judges to preside over these terms.
3. Supervises the administration of Circuit Courts, Family Courts, Probate Courts, Masters-In-Equity, Magistrates, and, to a limited degree, Municipal Courts, as well as the support personnel related to these courts, such as Clerks of Court and Public Defenders.
4. Collects extensive caseload information and activity statistics on the operation of the Circuit Courts, Family Courts, Probate Courts, Magistrate Courts, Municipal Courts, and Masters-In-Equity.
5. Provides assistance to individual courts in calendar management, jury management, and recordkeeping. Such assistance is provided at the request of the individual trial courts or at the initiation of the Office of South Carolina Court Administration when problems come to its attention.
6. Serves as a clearing house of new studies and reports in the area of judicial administration and reform.
7. Makes recommendations to the Chief Justice on administrative or procedural rules being considered for adoption and analyzes the potential effect of such proposed rules on the system.
8. Supplies reports and documents to the legislature, appears before legislative committees, and drafts proposed legislation with the aid of advisory committees and others.
9. Conducts the mandatory legal education programs for summary court judges including orientation schools for new judges and regional schools on specific subject matters.
10. Administers the Defense of Indigents Fund and the Judicial Commitment Fund.

11. Coordinates with and assists, when requested, the Judicial Standards Commission and the Office of the Director of Finance and Personnel of the Judicial Department and other agencies of state government such as the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Youth Services, State Law Enforcement Division, the Office of the Governor, and others. As State Court Administrator, the Director is a member of the Governor's Committee on Criminal Justice, Crime and Delinquency, the Court Modernization Committee of the South Carolina Bar, and the National Conference of State Court Administrators. Representatives of the office serve on various other committees with the Judicial Department and state government.
12. Serves as secretariat to the Judicial Council and the Appellate Defense Commission.
13. Carries out such additional duties as assigned by the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

The foregoing enumerates a wide area of activity which involves various specific duties. The role of the Office of Court Administration has been an expanding one as the constitutional mandate of judicial reform and the establishment of a unified statewide judicial system has been carried forward.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

This office is directly responsible to the Chief Justice for the internal fiscal operation of the Judicial Department. In addition to budgetary planning and operation, all personnel matters, payrolls and purchasing are the responsibility of this division. The State provides total funding for the operation of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and Court Administration.

The State also funds the salary of the circuit and family court judges, their law clerks, secretaries, and court reporters as well as related equipment and supplies. County governing bodies are responsible for providing facilities for the operation of the Circuit, Family, Probate, Magisterial Courts, and Masters-In-Equity. All other personnel are funded by county governing units.

One quarter of all fines, forfeitures, and other revenues generated by the circuit and family courts are paid into the State with the balance going to the local governing bodies. All magisterial court fines and forfeitures and civil filing fees are paid to the local governing body. There are limited exceptions to this when certain fines are directed to specific agencies.

DEFENSE OF INDIGENTS

The appropriated funds are used to provide legal representation for indigent defendants in criminal proceedings. Funds are disbursed to public defender corporations, in those counties having such a corporation, on a monthly basis. In the single county having no public defender corporation, payments are made directly to court appointed counsel where indigency has been determined. The program is monitored by the Office of Court Administration with recommendations to the Supreme Court for necessary rule changes and improvements.

In Fiscal Year 1985-86 (July 1, 1985-June 30, 1986) \$1,238,380 was appropriated to the Defense of Indigents Program. From this appropriation, each county was apportioned an amount at the rate of \$398.29 per one thousand population, based on the official United States Census for 1980. These individual allocations are for the use of the public defender corporations or for the fees of appointed counsel in the county which did not have a defender corporation. There is also a statewide Defense Fund, for the payment of certain necessary expenses incurred in indigent defense, such Fund being available to both public defenders and appointed counsel.

During Fiscal Year 1985-86, Clarendon County was the only county without a public defender corporation. For the payment of fees of appointed counsel, \$10,939 was appropriated and \$6,961 actually expended. A public defender corporation for Clarendon was established in July, 1986.

Public defender corporations, in addition to the monthly disbursements from the State appropriated Defense of Indigents Fund, are partially subsidized by the individual counties, and by other available Federal funds.

The Defense Fund, for certain necessary expenses, was appropriated \$195,000 in Fiscal Year 1985-86. The total expenditure in this category was \$115,154.

JUDICIAL COMMITMENT ACT

Funds appropriated by the state legislature are used to provide designated examiners, legal representation, and court reporters involved in involuntary mental commitment proceedings. These proceedings are brought in the Probate Courts of this state. The fund is administered by the Office of South Carolina Court Administration which monitors performance and needs.

THE CLERKS OF COURT

Each county in South Carolina has a popularly elected Clerk of Court who serves a four-year term. The Clerk of Court serves the Circuit-Court and Family Court in each county. Duties of clerks extend to both civil and criminal areas: receiving criminal warrants and forwarding them to the solicitor; receiving bail; assembling trial lists; performing courtroom duties; handling jury-related matters; receiving fees, fines and costs; maintaining all court records; and handling reporting requirements. In 37 of the 46 counties, the clerk serves as the Register of Mesne Conveyances and thus keeps all records required by the recording statutes. All funding of clerks of court for staff, office space, and equipment is a county responsibility (Section 14-17-10, et seq.), with the exception of a limited state salary supplement.

THE PROSECUTION

By constitutional provisions, the Attorney General is the chief prosecutor of the State. (South Carolina Constitution, Article V, Section 20.) The Attorney General, besides acting as the state's chief prosecutor, also represents the State in civil litigation, and issues opinions regarding the interpretation of law. (Title I, Chapter 7.)

Prosecution in circuit court is carried out by a circuit solicitor or his assistants. In addition, a solicitor, if directed by the Attorney General, may represent the State in a civil proceeding.

THE DEFENSE

An accused in South Carolina, when unable to retain counsel due to financial inability, may request the court to appoint counsel upon proof of indigent status. Such public defense may be by public defender or by appointed counsel, upon designation by the court.

The fees (within maximum limits) and expenses are paid to appointed counsel, upon application for reimbursement by voucher to the Office of Court Administration out of a special fund established by the legislature for such purposes.

Once an appointment is made, the attorney must represent the accused through trial, but may be permitted to withdraw for good cause. The attorney serves without pay once the special fund is exhausted, unless the county provides additional funds. Also, attorneys in counties having public defender corporations may not have fees paid from the special fund, but must seek payment from other sources. As of July, 1986 there are 39 public defender corporations established to provide services in 46 counties with the funds for these programs supplied from the Defense of Indigents program funds. State law allows multi-county defender corporations, and three such corporations have been formed. The Office of Appellate Defense operates under the direction of the Appellate Defense Commission and handles all criminal indigency appeals.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINE

The caseload of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline increased so dramatically that the prior rule was revised by Order of the Supreme Court dated January 17, 1983.

Every grievance received by the Board is reviewed by the Chairman; he may dismiss the grievance for lack of merit, refer it to another Commission which may best suit the needs of the Complainant such as the Fee Disputes Committee, or the matter may be assigned for investigation by a member of the Commission from the circuit where the attorney complained about resides. Due to the increase in grievances, there are now Associate members appointed for investigating only, besides the twenty-five full Commission members. When an investigative report has been filed by a Commission member, the matter is then scheduled for review by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is made up of five of the Commission members and meets monthly.

If the Executive Committee finds no merit to the grievance, the matter is dismissed. If the Committee finds probable cause that a violation of the code of Professional Responsibility has occurred, the matter is referred to the Attorney General's Office and formal charges are brought by way of a Formal Complaint against the attorney. The matter is then set for a hearing by a three member panel made up of members of the Commission. Sixty days after the hearing the panel must submit a report of their findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation as to what sanction they feel should be imposed on the attorney for the violation. The entire matter is then reviewed appellately by the Executive Committee, the Committee makes an independent recommendation as to sanction, and the matter is thereafter certified to the Supreme Court for their review and final disposition.

All proceedings before the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline are confidential.

A statistical summary is set forth on the following page. This summary differs from years prior to 1982 because a log is now kept of all inquiries being considered. Prior to 1982, only those forwarded for formal investigation were used for statistical purposes. The present method is a more accurate accounting of the case load of the Board of Commissioners on Grievances and Discipline.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON
GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINE
October 1, 1982-October 1, 1986

Grievances

Year*	Pending First of Period	Inquiries Received	Dismissed by Chairman	Dismissed by Executive Committee	Formal Complaints Requested/ Served	Pending End of Period
1983	110	344	182	124	32/33	109
1984	109	305	134	105	33/33	120
1985	120	393	243	96	37/22	133
1986	133	454	307	117	30/36	128

Meetings and Hearings

Year*	Full Board Meetings	Executive Committee Meetings	Panel Hearings Scheduled	Panel Hearings Held
1983	0	12		32
1984	1	12	34	26
1985	1	10	34	25
1986	1	11	34	22

Sanctions Imposed

Year*	Dis. by S. Ct.	Private Rep.	Public Rep.	Def. Susp.	Indef. Susp.	Perm. Disbarment	Resignation
1983	7	7	8	0	2	8	9
1984	17	8	4	0	3	5	18
1985	7	8	5	1	3	1	16
1986	6	6	6	0	3	4	10

*Annual statistical reports are maintained for periods beginning each October 1. Thus, information for "1983" actually covers the period October 1, 1982 to October 1, 1983.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUDICIAL STANDARDS

The Supreme Court, under the authority vested in it by Article V of the South Carolina Constitution, issued Supreme Court Rule 34, entitled Rule on Judicial Discipline and Standards, which provided for the formation of the office of the Board of Commissioners on Judicial Standards, and also sets forth its area of responsibility and duties. The Judicial Standards Commission office commenced operation November 1, 1976. This Board, now composed of eight judges and two lawyers, was formed to accept from complainants their grievances against South Carolina judges and to make any necessary inquiry to determine if a judge has violated the Code of Judicial Conduct or has acquired any physical/mental disability of a permanent nature which might affect his ability to perform his official functions.

Rule 34 also provides for the appointment of nine Hearing Masters by the Supreme Court. If, after a preliminary investigation by the staff determines that probable cause exists and a hearing is scheduled by the Board, three Hearing Masters are selected by the Supreme Court to hear the case against the respondent judge. They have the duty of reporting their findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the issues presented by the complaint and answer.

After reviewing the record and this report by the Hearing Masters, the Board has the authority to make their own findings or concur with the Hearing Masters. They then have the duty of recommending any disciplinary action back to the Commission for certification to the Supreme Court, which makes the final decision in the matter, and at that time it will become a matter of public record, if a public reprimand or suspension is ordered.

The Examiner for the Board, an Assistant Attorney General, is appointed by the Supreme Court.

The office staff is composed of an Executive Secretary and an Administrative Assistant whose duties are to accept from the public, or other sources, grievances against judges and to make an initial inquiry in order to present the facts to the Board at their regular meetings. The office staff also performs the usual duties of maintaining files and records of the Board. The Executive Secretary also conducts any investigation required by the Board.

The following is statistical data reflecting cases received and disposed during 1986.

RECAP OF REPORT
for
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUDICIAL STANDARDS

(Three Year Period)
January 1, 1984 through December 31, 1986

	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>CASES TO BE PROCESSED</u>				
Grievances on Hand January 1	11	10	16	37
New Grievances Received	86	99	102	287
Grievances Reopened	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL GRIEVANCES	<u>97</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>325</u>
<u>STATUS and/or DISPOSITION OF CASES PROCESSED</u>				
Dismissed by Board After Review/Appropriate Action Taken by Board	83	87	91	261
Proceedings Discontinued by Board-- Judge no longer in Office	1	4	4	9
Board's Recommendation Referred to Supreme Court Private/Public Reprimand or Formal Complaint Dismissed	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>
Total Cases Concluded	87	93	95	275
Grievances Under Investigation as of December 31 (Including Pending-Inactive)	3	10	11	24
Board's Recommendation to Supreme Court (Pending)	1	1	0	2
Grievances to be Presented to the Board (Received after last quarterly Board Meeting)	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>24</u>
Total Cases to be Investigated/ Pending	10	16	24	50
TOTAL GRIEVANCES	<u>97</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>325</u>

RECAP OF RESULTS OF ACTIONS TAKEN AFTER RECEIPT OF GRIEVANCE
BY THE OFFICE OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON JUDICIAL STANDARDS

(Nov-Dec)

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	Total
Informal corrective action (warning, admonition, judge corrected problem)	1	60	24	48	16	21	0	5	6	4	3	188
Interview of judge before the Board	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	1	7
Formal complaint/amended complaint served	0	2	2	0	1	2	3	1	1	3	2	17
Hearing by Masters to Rule on Motions	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Formal hearing held by Hearing Masters	0	2	1	0	1	2	2	1	3	1	2	15
Board accepted/adopted Hearing Masters Report			0	1	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	8
Hearing before Board of Commissioners	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	5
Supreme Court accepted Board's Recommendation	0	1	0	0	0	1	7	1	2	1	1	14
Supreme Court disagreed with Board's Recommendation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Judge retired by Supreme Court	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Judge removed by Supreme Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Judge removed from office by Governor	0	3	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	7
Case remanded to Board by Supreme Court to administer private reprimand	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
Judge resigned before investigation initiated							1	0	0	0	2	3
Judge resigned after formal hearing	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Judge resigned after formal complaint served	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Judge resigned after receiving Rule to Show Cause and Petition for Suspension	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	7
Judge resigned/term expired and not reappointed while Judge under investigation	0	4	2	1	7	7	5	1	1	0	1	29
Judge suspended by the Chief Justice	0	2	1	2	2	1	4	3	0	2	2	19
Indefinite suspension by Supreme Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Judge suspended by the Governor	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Judge voluntarily suspended himself	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Case turned over to Supreme Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Waiver and Consent signed by Judge (Judge waives Hearing and consents to sanction)							3	0	0	1	1	5
Orders/new procedures recommended by Board	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3

DATA REFLECTING CASES RECEIVED AND DISPOSITON

Since its inception (November 1, 1976) the Commission has received 1,295 matters concerning grievances against judicial officers.

During the past year, January 1, 1986 through December 31, 1986, the Commission handled 119 matters relating to grievances against judicial officers. 102 new grievances were received and 1 previously dismissed case was reopened in 1986 with 16 grievances pending on January 1, 1986. Of the 119 matters handled, 95 grievances reached final disposition, resulting in a year-end case load of 24 pending grievances.

GRIEVANCE SOURCES

Of the 102 new grievances filed with the Commission in the course of the 1986 reporting period, such grievances originated from the following sources:

- 82 Litigants
 - 1 Nonlitigating citizen (juror)
 - 1 Private attorney
 - 5 Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
 - 4 Court Administration Office referrals
 - 6 Judicial Standards Commission
 - 2 South Carolina Law Enforcement (SLED)
 - 1 Magistrate
- 102 Total

SUBJECT MATTER GRIEVANCES

Of the 102 new grievances received by the Commission during the 1986 reporting period, such grievances complained of the following matters:

- 1 Judge charged with petit larceny
- 1 Judge charged with arson and conspiracy
- 1 Judge charged with DUI
- 1 Judge perjured himself during testimony
- 1 Judge sought sexual favors in exchange for bond reduction
- 1 Bank account/bond money handled improperly
- 1 Audit found numerous "problem" warrants
- 2 Judge has alcohol problem/intoxicated on bench
- 1 Judge frequented bars at illegal hours
- 1 Judge allegedly purchased real estate probated in his court
- 3 Judge allegedly used judicial authority improperly/used his position to solicit legal business
- 1 Judge failed to submit monthly reports in timely manner to Court Administration
- 1 Judge allegedly refused to pay his debt
- 1 Judge failed to abide by jail delivery schedule
- 1 Sheriff's office unable to obtain warrants/not transmitted
- 1 Judge's secretary allegedly made change of venue decision
- 1 Judge signed and served warrant
- 1 Judge failed to appear at hearings/designated times

- 1 Reports indicated judge had low number of monthly case dispositions
- 1 Complainant allegedly overheard judge's wife discussing his case with plaintiff's wife in courthouse
- 6 Complainant allegedly was frightened/humiliated/embarrassed by judge
- 7 Complainant alleges judge is rude/abrasive/abrupt
- 3 Judge allegedly threatened complainant
- 2 Judge behaved improperly
- 1 Judge allegedly lied to complainant
- 17 Judge allegedly was biased/prejudiced against complainant
- 2 Judge allegedly used profanity
- 1 Judge allegedly refused to talk to complainant
- 2 Judge allegedly made inappropriate remarks
- 1 Complainant alleges harassment by judge
- 1 Complainant believes he was unable to obtain attorney because of judge
- 1 Complainant alleges judge is part of conspiracy
- 1 Complainant alleges judge is guilty of malfeasance
- 1 Judge represented his immediate family in court
- 17 Complainant disagrees with judicial decision/judge unfair
- 9 Complainant unhappy with judge's handling of case/did not conduct proper trial/held "mockery" trial/mishandled case/did not follow recommended procedures
- 1 Judge allegedly reversed judgments without hearing
- 2 Judge failed to prepare returns/complete duties/render decision in timely manner
- 1 Judge allegedly entered judgment contrary to plea
- 1 Judge alleged to have prejudged case
- 1 Judge would not allow prosecution to cross-examine witnesses
- 2 Judge allegedly initiated ex parte communication
- 1 Judge failed to dispose of civil case
- 1 Judge allegedly used poor judgment
- 1 Judge falsified traffic ticket to indicate complainant had jury trial
- 1 Judge allegedly disposed of criminal case outside his jurisdiction
- 1 Judge signed order contrary to oral agreement
- 1 Complainant alleges he is denied due process
- 1 Judge allegedly accepted forged and perjured testimony
- 1 Complainant alleges collusion between judge and opposing attorney
- 1 Complainant alleges judge did not consider testimony
- 1 Judge allegedly sentenced complainant at rule to show cause hearing
- 1 Judge allegedly attempting to deprive complainant of his inheritance
- 1 Judge allegedly rubber stamping
- 1 Judge allegedly mishandled traffic violation
- 1 Judge refused to issue warrant
- 1 Judge allegedly did not notify complainant of trial date
- 1 Complainant allegedly ordered out of judge's office by judge
- 1 Complainant unhappy with way judge runs his (judge's) realty company
- 5 Judge allegedly refused to hear case

- 1 Judge allegedly issued warrant improperly
- 1 Complainant feels he was not given adequate time to obtain counsel
- 1 Judge did not participate in investigation as requested by complainant
- 1 Chief magistrate directed other magistrates to wear a badge

This report reflects a breakdown of all complaints received during the year just completed and is a listing of various types of complaints people have lodged against members of the judiciary. It is not a tally of the number of cases opened by this office during the year, since one case may include more than one complaint against a judge.

A majority of the complaints were made on personal opinion and were without any basis of fact.

DISPOSITIONAL BREAKDOWN

Of the 95 grievances processed to completion by the Commission during the 1986 reporting period, the ultimate determination of such grievances was as follows:

- 86 Dismissed (unfounded; no evidence of misconduct; lack of jurisdiction; appellate matter)
- 4 Dismissed after appropriate action was taken by the Board
- 1 Case concluded after Public Reprimand issued
Proceedings discontinued
- 3 Judge resigned (2 judges/3 grievances)
- 1 Judge died
- 95 Total

CATEGORY OF JUDGE COMPLAINED AGAINST

- 15 Circuit Court
- 23 Family Court
- 50 Magistrate Court
- 6 Probate Court
- 7 Municipal Court
- 1 Master-in-Equity
- 102 Total

ANALYSIS OF DATA:

Some brief conclusions can be drawn upon examination of the above grievance data:

(1) Over 75% of all grievances were either obviously unfounded, there was no evidence of misconduct, there was lack of jurisdiction or they were appellate matters. Grievances of the latter type came from dissatisfied litigants who had accused the judge of partiality or disregard of the law in the case, but who point to no substantiating evidence of misconduct. Such persons were advised of the proper appellate remedy.

(2) Many grievances were received from litigants in divorce or custody matters and from civil and criminal defendants. A common assertion made was that the judge failed to give the parties a fair

hearing in the case or was arrogant and rude. Judges might profitably reexamine their attitude and demeanor toward lawyers and litigants and where necessary, take more care to arrive at sound judgments, make their decisions and explain the reasons for their rulings with as little display of personal feeling as possible.

ACTION TAKEN IN THE REPORTING PERIOD (JANUARY 1, 1986 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1986)

The Commission continued to experience an increase in requests for investigations during 1986. The number of complaints against magistrates continued to lead, as expected, due to the number of active magistrates; however, the number of complaints against family court judges decreased and circuit court judges showed the largest percentage of increase. Circuit court complaints increased from ten to fifteen.

Numerous general questions regarding the function and discipline process of the Commission were also answered on a continued basis by telephone calls or personal visits to the office.

Members of the Commission made two presentations during the year during Magistrates' orientations and one presentation to the Judicial Conference.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court serves as secretary to the Board of Law Examiners, and the administrative work in connection with bar admissions is the responsibility of the Clerk.

The following statistics will be of interest.

Year	Bar Examination	Number Passing	% Passing
1973	280	280	93%
1974	298	278	93%
1975	309	288	93%
1976	323	298	92%
1977	360	320	89%
1978	327	304	93%
1979	343	308	90%
1980	374	253	68%
1981	314	287	92%
1982	309	305	99%
1983	306	298	97%
1984	323	300	93%
1985	353	292	83%
1986	381	319	84%

BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

Section 4 of Article V of the Constitution provides that the Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction over the admission of persons to the practice of law and, pursuant to this provision, the Court has appointed a Board of Law Examiners whose responsibility it is to determine whether or not the applicants possess the necessary legal knowledge for admission. In addition, the Court has appointed a Committee of five attorneys to determine whether the applicants possess the character and fitness for admission.

The bar examination consists of a multistate examination as given by the National Conference of Bar Examiners. This is a machine graded examination that is given in 41 states on the last Wednesday in February and July each year. In addition to the multistate examination, the examiners prepare questions and test the applicants on additional subjects. The essay portion of the examination is given on Thursday and Friday following the multistate examination. Each examiner grades his own questions and the scores are combined for an average and then forwarded to the National Conference of Bar Examiners to be combined with multistate grades.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court serves as secretary to the Board of Law Examiners, and the administrative work in connection with bar admissions is the responsibility of the Clerk.

The following statistics will be of interest.

Year	Number Taking Bar Examination	Number Passing	% Passing
1973	280	260	93%
1974	298	278	93%
1975	309	288	93%
1976	322	298	93%
1977	369	350	95%
1978	327	304	93%
1979	342	308	90%
1980	274	253	92%
1981	314	287	91%
1982	309	305	99%
1983	306	298	97%
1984	337	300	89%
1985	353	292	83%
1986	391	319	82%

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Supreme Court of South Carolina adopted in 1976 a rule which required mandatory continuing legal education for all judges within the state judicial system with the exception of the magisterial judges. Each judge is required to complete a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of legal education each calendar year. Such training may be acquired by in-state or out-of-state programs which are approved by the Commission. The Commission is composed of a Justice of the Supreme Court who shall serve as chairman, one Court of Appeals Judge, two Circuit Court Judges, one Family Court Judge, one member of the University of South Carolina Law School Faculty and two members of the Bar of South Carolina. The Continuing Legal Education Program of the South Carolina Bar provides secretarial services to the Continuing Legal Education Commission for the Judiciary.

YEAR =====	GENERAL SESSIONS				COMMON PLEAS				FAMILY COURT				GENERAL SESSIONS, COMMON PLEAS, AND FAMILY COURTS COMBINED		
	FILED =====	DISPO. =====	PEND. END	LESS THAN	FILED =====	DISPO. =====	PEND. END	LESS THAN	FILED =====	DISPO. =====	PEND. END	LESS THAN	FILED =====	DISPO. =====	PEND. END
			OF YR.	6 MO.			OF YR.	1 YR.			OF YR.	6 MO.			OF YR.
1976					26,257	33,239	15,813		43,592	38,078	17,502				
1977					29,259	28,905	16,167		54,272	51,553	20,221				
1978	30,308	30,868	8,672		27,840	27,871	16,136		60,364	62,586	17,999	65%	118,512	121,325	42,807
1979	31,746	32,757	7,628		36,349	31,368	23,282		52,635	55,259	15,375	76%	120,730	119,384	46,285
1980	34,147	33,722	8,215		38,359	41,330	19,690	80%	53,184	53,138	14,462	83%	125,690	128,190	42,367
1981	31,930	33,421	6,600		38,465	38,909	19,282	87%	54,240	53,032	15,326	83%	124,635	125,362	41,208
1982	30,685	29,580	8,074		42,233	39,691	22,328	89%	54,464	52,703	16,881	80%	127,382	121,974	47,283
1983	37,661	38,819	6,127	52%	40,498	44,249	18,985	95%	59,655	60,253	16,054	86%	137,814	143,321	41,166
1984	40,371	42,188	4,399	73%	41,835	42,528	18,628	98%	62,413	63,830	14,896	92%	144,619	148,546	37,923
1985	41,436	41,668	4,188	73%	47,466	45,389	21,037	97%	61,824	61,930	14,977	91%	150,726	148,987	40,202
1986	48,057	46,859	5,417	79%	52,895	50,475	23,647	98%	63,781	64,049	14,967	95%	164,733	161,383	44,031

YEAR =====	SUMMARY COURTS						ALL STATEWIDE		PROBATE COURT		
	MAGISTRATE COURT		MUNICIPAL COURT		TOTAL		TRIAL COURTS		FILED =====	DISPO. =====	PEND. END OF YEAR
	FILED =====	DISPO. =====	FILED =====	DISPO. =====	FILED =====	DISPO. =====	FILED =====	DISPO. =====			=====
1976	532,803	523,618									
1977	565,838	552,658									
1978	577,616	585,309									
1979	604,068	604,398									
1980	601,419	601,481	248,095	248,822	849,514	850,303	975,204	978,493			
1981	608,402	608,168	297,951	297,179	906,353	905,347	1,030,988	1,030,709			
1982	609,752	609,013	300,374	301,341	910,126	910,354	1,037,508	1,032,328			
1983	616,479	608,143	305,155	304,876	921,634	913,019	1,059,448	1,056,340			
1984	608,575*	610,203	332,165	330,728	940,740	940,931	1,085,359	1,089,477	18,595	11,400	21,374
1985	610,650*	612,180	347,819	346,621	958,469	958,801	1,109,195	1,107,788	19,703	17,088	24,769
1986	620,200*	621,625*	364,265	364,298	984,465	985,923	1,149,198	1,147,306	20,459	19,552	25,715

*Estimated

SOUTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT STATISTICS, 1986

As of December 31, 1986, the Supreme Court had a total of 1,177 cases pending, broken down as follows:

Cases ready for consideration (all briefs filed)	- 165
(This compares to 470 as of December 1985.)	
Cases docketed but awaiting 1 or more briefs	- 220
Cases awaiting docketing in various stages	- 792
	<u>1,177*</u>

The Court of Appeals had 166 cases pending as of December 31, 1986. The Court of Appeals issued 337 opinions in 1986.

IN THE SUPREME COURT

	Year Docketed		Total
	1985	1986	
Routine Civil	4	54	56
Rule 29 - Civil (No Oral argument)	0	8	8
Family Court	3	28	31
Routine Criminal	1	49	50
No Merit Criminal	0	14	14
Post-Conviction Relief	0	1	1
Attorney Disciplinary Matters	0	3	3
Original Jurisdiction	0	0	0
Certified Questions from Federal Courts	0	1	1
Certiorari from Court of Appeals	0	1	1
	<u>8</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>165</u>

* Does not include cases heard and under advisement.

882 cases were docketed in 1986 compared to 890 in 1985.

The Supreme Court this year disposed of a total of 696 cases (481 by unpublished opinions and 215 by published opinions.)

76 Cases have been dismissed due to settlements, withdrawal of the appeal, failure to perfect, etc.

Motions practice is reflected in the following:

Motions	-	Filed in 1985	- 2,136
		Filed in 1986	- 2,182
		Disposed of	- 2,055
		Pending	<u>127</u>

The Court also has 57 Petitions for Certiorari in the Post-Conviction Relief cases Pending.

CASES DOCKETED IN 1986

Civil (Oral Argument)	351
Civil (No Argument)	52
Family Court	184
Criminal	257
Post-Conviction	3
Attorney Disciplinary	20
Original Jurisdiction	0
Certified Questions of Law	2
Certiorari	13
	<u>882</u>

PETITIONS FOR CERTIORARI

Filed During 1986

	Post-Conviction	Court of Appeals	Total
Filed	133	72	205
Denied	81	63	144
Granted	10	14	24
Dismissed	0	1	1
Pending	57	23	80

NOTICES OF APPEAL

Filed During 1986

Filed	Dismissed	Pending	Total Filed to Date
2,189	951	792	2,189

BREAKDOWN OF CIVIL CASES DOCKETED

Filed During 1986

Routine Civil		Routine Civil Cont'd	
Contract	100	Employment Law	1
Torts	69	Administrative Law	1
Zoning	6	Products & Liability	1
Workman's Compensation	32	Corporation	1
Taxation	3	Insurance	3
State Agency	6		
Miscellaneous	34		
Trust & Estates	11	Rule 29 - Civil	
Property	3	Contracts	23
Condemnation	2	Torts	12
Constitutional	6	Miscellaneous	5
Real Estate	57	Real Estate	6
Procedural	1	Final	1
Environmental Law	1	Trust & Estates	1
Elections	2	Revenue Bonds	1
Bonded Indebtedness	1	Constitutional Law	1
Public Service		Family Court	2
Commission	3	Property	1

BREAKDOWN BY COUNTY

1986

County	Regular	Family Court
Abbeville	2	0
Aiken	26	10
Allendale	4	0
Anderson	24	5
Bamberg	1	0
Barnwell	4	1
Beaufort	36	12
Berkeley	10	4
Calhoun	1	1
Charleston	92	15
Cherokee	3	1
Chester	2	0
Chesterfield	4	1
Clarendon	2	0
Colleton	8	1
Darlington	9	3
Dillon	4	4
Dorchester	8	6
Edgefield	0	0
Fairfield	2	1
Florence	24	4
Georgetown	12	1
Greenville	52	23
Greenwood	7	1
Hampton	1	0
Horry	38	9
Jasper	2	0
Kershaw	4	2
Lancaster	2	2
Laurens	6	1
Lee	2	0
Lexington	37	14
Marion	4	2
Marlboro	2	1
McCormick	2	0
Newberry	3	0
Oconee	5	3
Orangeburg	8	4
Pickens	17	3
Richland	101	16
Saluda	4	0
Spartanburg	31	6
Sumter	15	4
Union	6	1
Williamsburg	6	0
York	20	13

Filed During 1986

30

COURT OF APPEALS

As of January 1, 1986, cases pending in the Court of Appeals:

185

A total of 347 cases were transferred from the Supreme Court in 1986:

Routine Civil	214
Rule 29	20
Family Court	113

Petitions for Rehearing Granted	4
Total	536

There were two weeks of Court in January - June and September - December, with a total of 357 cases scheduled for hearing during the year. 256 regular opinions and 81 memorandum opinions were issued; 2 cases combined with one opinion issued; 31 cases were dismissed; and 4 cases were returned to the Supreme Court, leaving a total of 162 cases pending.

Regular opinions are full, written opinions for publication filed by the Court on appeals considered. Memorandum opinions are full, written opinions filed by the Court on appeals considered, but not published.

1986 Motions and Petitions filed	191
1986 Motions and Petitions disposed of	177
1986 Motions and Petitions pending	14

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

Filings and Dispositions

Filings in the Court of General Sessions increased by 16% during 1986 and the number of indictments disposed increased at nearly the same pace, 12%. More than half of the increase occurred in the four largest counties: Greenville, Charleston, Richland and Spartanburg.

The report on the following pages shows, for each circuit and county, the number of filings and dispositions during the year.

YEARLY CHANGE IN GENERAL SESSIONS CASES: FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

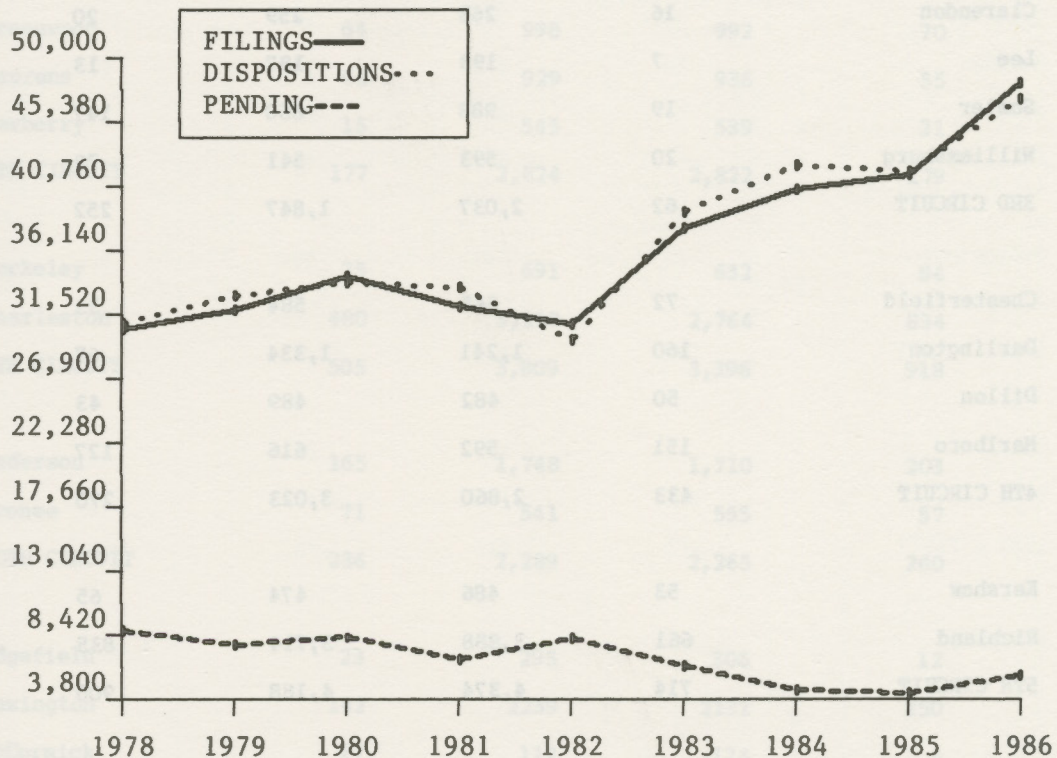
Year	Filed	Yearly Change (Cases / %)	Disposed	Yearly Change (Cases / %)
1978	30,308		30,868	
1979	31,746	+1,438 / + 5%	32,757	+1,889 / + 6%
1980	34,147	+2,401 / + 8%	33,722	+ 965 / + 3%
1981	31,930	-2,217 / - 6%	33,421	- 301 / - 1%
1982	30,685	-1,245 / - 4%	29,580	-3,841 / -11%
1983	37,661	+6,976 / +23%	38,819	+9,239 / +31%
1984	40,371	+2,710 / + 7%	42,188	+3,369 / + 9%
1985	41,436	+1,065 / + 3%	41,668	- 520 / - 1%
1986	48,057	+6,621 / +16%	46,859	+5,191 / +12%

GENERAL SESSIONS TERMS HELD

Year	Terms Held	Yearly Change (Terms / %)	Year	Terms Held	Yearly Change (Terms / %)
1978	444.2		1983	523.6	+33.8 / +6.9%
1979	503.2	+59.0 / +13.3%	1984	528.4	+ 4.8 / +0.9%
1980	505.6	+ 2.4 / + 0.5%	1985	554.6	+26.2 / +5.0%
1981	492.2	-13.4 / - 2.7%	1986	564.0	+ 9.4 / +1.7%
1982	489.8	- 4.4 / - 0.9%			

COURT: General Sessions

YEAR	FILINGS	DISPOSITIONS	PENDING END OF YEAR
1978	30,308	30,868	8,672
1979	31,746	32,757	7,628
1980	34,147	33,722	8,215
1981	31,930	33,421	6,600
1982	30,685	29,580	8,074
1983	37,661	38,819	6,127
1984	40,371	42,188	4,399
1985	41,436	41,668	4,188
1986	48,057	46,859	5,417



South Carolina Court Administration
General Sessions Workload Report
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	PENDING FIRST OF PERIOD	FILED DURING PERIOD	DISPOSED DURING PERIOD	PENDING END OF PERIOD
Calhoun	21	172	133	60
Dorchester	80	649	668	61
Orangeburg	135	1,050	1,126	59
1ST CIRCUIT	236	1,871	1,927	180
Aiken	24	975	984	15
Bamberg	5	160	155	10
Barnwell	0	218	214	4
2ND CIRCUIT	29	1,353	1,353	29
Clarendon	16	263	259	20
Lee	7	193	187	13
Sumter	19	988	860	147
Williamsburg	20	593	541	72
3RD CIRCUIT	62	2,037	1,847	252
Chesterfield	72	545	584	33
Darlington	160	1,241	1,334	67
Dillon	50	482	489	43
Marlboro	151	592	616	127
4TH CIRCUIT	433	2,860	3,023	270
Kershaw	53	486	474	65
Richland	661	3,888	3,714	835
5TH CIRCUIT	714	4,374	4,188	900

South Carolina Court Administration
General Sessions Workload Report
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	PENDING FIRST OF PERIOD	FILED DURING PERIOD	DISPOSED DURING PERIOD	PENDING END OF PERIOD
Chester	61	571	632	0
Fairfield	20	287	307	0
Lancaster	62	692	748	6
6TH CIRCUIT	143	1,550	1,687	6
Cherokee	59	870	835	94
Spartanburg	409	4,020	3,899	530
7TH CIRCUIT	468	4,890	4,734	624
Abbeville	36	352	355	33
Greenwood	64	998	992	70
Laurens	62	929	936	55
Newberry	15	545	539	21
8TH CIRCUIT	177	2,824	2,822	179
Berkeley	25	691	632	84
Charleston	480	3,118	2,764	834
9TH CIRCUIT	505	3,809	3,396	918
Anderson	165	1,748	1,710	203
Oconee	71	541	555	57
10TH CIRCUIT	236	2,289	2,265	260
Edgefield	23	295	306	12
Lexington	142	2239	2131	250
McCormick	17	112	124	5
Saluda	16	209	219	6
11TH CIRCUIT	198	2,855	2,780	273

South Carolina Court Administration
General Sessions Workload Report
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	PENDING FIRST OF PERIOD	FILED DURING PERIOD	DISPOSED DURING PERIOD	PENDING END OF PERIOD
Florence	39	1,104	1,133	10
Marion	5	304	304	5
12TH CIRCUIT	44	1,408	1,437	15
Greenville	197	6,590	6,291	496
Pickens	14	1,198	1,135	77
13TH CIRCUIT	211	7,788	7,426	573
Allendale	21	207	185	43
Beaufort	163	1062	966	259
Colleton	67	738	667	138
Hampton	33	239	231	41
Jasper	57	341	306	92
14TH CIRCUIT	341	2,587	2,355	573
Georgetown	82	548	590	40
Horry	169	2,099	2,088	180
15TH CIRCUIT	251	2,647	2,678	220
Union	11	572	553	30
York	160	2,343	2,388	115
16TH CIRCUIT	171	2,915	2,941	145
STATEWIDE	4,219	48,057	46,859	5,417

From CRM 60, run 02/28/87

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

Indictment Dispositions

A total of 46,859 indictments were disposed during 1986. Of those, 67% or 31,599 indictments resulted in convictions. Non-convictions, which include verdicts of not guilty and administrative actions such as dismissals or decisions to nol pros, were the result in 27% or 12,730 of the cases. The remaining 5% or 2,530 indictments were disposed by transfer to other courts or other types of disposition.

The report on the following pages shows, by county and circuit, the number of indictments disposed during 1986 and the method of disposition.

YEARLY RATES OF CONVICTIONS AND NON-CONVICTIONS IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

Year	Disposed	Convictions (Cases / %)	Non-convictions (Cases / %)	Other (Cases / %)
1980	33,722	26,750 / 79.3%	6,429 / 19.1%	543 / 1.6%
1981	33,421	25,129 / 75.2%	7,419 / 22.2%	873 / 2.6%
1982	29,580	22,764 / 77.0%	6,385 / 21.6%	431 / 1.5%
1983	38,819	26,855 / 69.2%	9,057 / 23.3%	2,907 / 7.5%
1984	42,188	27,292 / 64.7%	12,167 / 28.8%	2,729 / 6.5%
1985	41,668	28,610 / 68.6%	10,822 / 26.0%	2,236 / 5.4%
1986	46,859	31,599 / 67.4%	12,730 / 27.2%	2,530 / 5.4%

South Carolina Court Administration
Number of Indictments Disposed by Type of Disposition
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL DISPOSED	GUILTY PLEA	GUILTY AT TRIAL	TOTAL CONVICTED	NOT GUILTY AT TRIAL	NOLLE PROSEQUI*	JUDICIAL DISMISSAL	TOTAL NOT CONVICTED	REMANDS & OTHER DISPOSITIONS
Calhoun	133	58	6	64 / 48%	2	54	1	57 / 43%	12 / 9%
Dorchester	668	382	7	389 / 58%	5	254	3	262 / 39%	17 / 3%
Orangeburg	1,126	668	15	683 / 61%	5	379	3	387 / 34%	56 / 5%
1ST CIRCUIT	1,927	1,108	28	1,136 / 59%	12	687	7	706 / 37%	85 / 4%
Aiken	984	756	18	774 / 79%	10	168	1	179 / 18%	31 / 3%
Bamberg	155	121	2	123 / 79%	1	22	0	23 / 15%	9 / 6%
Barnwell	214	183	3	186 / 87%	0	17	0	17 / 8%	11 / 5%
2ND CIRCUIT	1,353	1,060	23	1,083 / 80%	11	207	1	219 / 16%	51 / 4%
Clarendon	259	204	6	210 / 81%	1	17	20	38 / 15%	11 / 4%
Lee	187	135	7	142 / 76%	0	16	4	20 / 11%	25 / 13%
Sumter	860	609	31	640 / 74%	6	103	37	146 / 17%	74 / 9%
Williamsburg	541	277	30	307 / 57%	5	138	28	171 / 32%	63 / 12%
3RD CIRCUIT	1,847	1,225	74	1,299 / 70%	12	274	89	375 / 20%	173 / 9%

*Includes cases disposed as "Prosecution Ended"

South Carolina Court Administration
Number of Indictments Disposed by Type of Disposition
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL DISPOSED	GUILTY PLEA	GUILTY AT TRIAL	TOTAL CONVICTED	NOT GUILTY AT TRIAL	NOLLE PROSEQUI*	JUDICIAL DISMISSAL	TOTAL NOT CONVICTED	REMANDS & OTHER DISPOSITIONS
Chesterfield	584	326	22	348 / 60%	2	165	9	176 / 30%	60 / 10%
Darlington	1,334	649	34	683 / 51%	14	374	6	394 / 30%	257 / 19%
Dillon	489	226	15	241 / 49%	10	157	4	171 / 35%	77 / 16%
Marlboro	616	429	21	450 / 73%	5	123	7	135 / 22%	31 / 5%
4TH CIRCUIT	3,023	1,630	92	1,722 / 57%	31	819	26	876 / 29%	425 / 14%
Kershaw	474	310	1	311 / 66%	1	139	0	140 / 30%	23 / 5%
Richland	3,714	2,126	288	2,414 / 65%	64	1,049	88	1,201 / 32%	99 / 3%
5TH CIRCUIT	4,188	2,436	289	2,725 / 65%	65	1,188	88	1,341 / 32%	122 / 3%
Chester	632	354	13	367 / 58%	3	235	0	238 / 38%	27 / 4%
Fairfield	307	198	12	210 / 68%	4	76	7	87 / 28%	10 / 3%
Lancaster	748	488	15	503 / 67%	6	221	1	228 / 30%	17 / 2%
6TH CIRCUIT	1,687	1,040	40	1,080 / 64%	13	532	8	553 / 33%	54 / 3%

*Includes cases disposed as "Prosecution Ended"

South Carolina Court Administration
Number of Indictments Disposed by Type of Disposition
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL DISPOSED	GUILTY PLEA	GUILTY AT TRIAL	TOTAL CONVICTED	NOT GUILTY AT TRIAL	NOLLE PROSEQUI*	JUDICIAL DISMISSAL	TOTAL NOT CONVICTED	REMANDS & OTHER DISPOSITIONS
Cherokee	835	574	21	595 / 71%	3	200	0	203 / 24%	37 / 4%
Spartanburg	3,899	2,626	62	2,688 / 69%	28	918	12	958 / 25%	253 / 6%
7TH CIRCUIT	4,734	3,200	83	3,283 / 69%	31	1,118	12	1,161 / 25%	290 / 6%
Abbeville	355	247	4	251 / 71%	0	73	0	73 / 21%	31 / 9%
Greenwood	992	753	12	765 / 77%	2	178	2	182 / 18%	45 / 5%
Laurens	936	697	11	708 / 76%	3	165	1	169 / 18%	59 / 6%
Newberry	539	398	12	410 / 76%	3	88	0	91 / 17%	38 / 7%
8TH CIRCUIT	2,822	2,095	39	2,134 / 76%	8	504	3	515 / 18%	173 / 6%
Berkeley	632	416	24	440 / 70%	3	126	24	153 / 24%	39 / 6%
Charleston	2,764	1,966	154	2,120 / 77%	31	293	51	375 / 14%	269 / 10%
9TH CIRCUIT	3,396	2,382	178	2,560 / 75%	34	419	75	528 / 16%	308 / 9%
Anderson	1,710	1,108	32	1,140 / 67%	9	555	3	567 / 33%	3 / 0%
Oconee	555	326	22	348 / 63%	3	201	1	205 / 37%	2 / 0%
10TH CIRCUIT	2,265	1,434	54	1,488 / 66%	12	756	4	772 / 34%	5 / 0%

*Includes cases disposed as "Prosecution Ended"

South Carolina Court Administration
Number of Indictments Disposed by Type of Disposition
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL DISPOSED	GUILTY PLEA	GUILTY AT TRIAL	TOTAL CONVICTED	NOT GUILTY AT TRIAL	NOLLE PROSEQUI*	JUDICIAL DISMISSAL	TOTAL NOT CONVICTED	REMANDS & OTHER DISPOSITIONS
Edgefield	306	190	5	195 / 64%	1	97	0	98 / 32%	13 / 4%
Lexington	2,131	985	50	1,035 / 49%	26	964	3	993 / 47%	103 / 5%
McCormick	124	61	3	64 / 52%	2	53	1	56 / 45%	4 / 3%
Saluda	219	121	3	124 / 57%	0	74	2	76 / 35%	19 / 9%
11TH CIRCUIT	2,780	1,357	61	1,418 / 51%	29	1,188	6	1,223 / 44%	139 / 5%
Florence	1,133	889	41	930 / 82%	19	90	1	110 / 10%	93 / 8%
Marion	304	218	17	235 / 77%	5	24	0	29 / 10%	40 / 13%
12TH CIRCUIT	1,437	1,107	58	1,165 / 81%	24	114	1	139 / 10%	133 / 9%
Greenville	6,291	4,172	70	4,242 / 67%	24	1,907	2	1,933 / 31%	116 / 2%
Pickens	1,135	917	26	943 / 83%	10	93	48	151 / 13%	41 / 4%
13TH CIRCUIT	7,426	5,089	96	5,185 / 70%	34	2,000	50	2,084 / 28%	157 / 2%

*Includes cases disposed as "Prosecution Ended"

South Carolina Court Administration
Number of Indictments Disposed by Type of Disposition
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL DISPOSED	GUILTY PLEA	GUILTY AT TRIAL	TOTAL CONVICTED	NOT GUILTY AT TRIAL	NOLLE PROSEQUI*	JUDICIAL DISMISSAL	TOTAL NOT CONVICTED	REMANDS & OTHER DISPOSITIONS
Allendale	185	121	4	125 / 68%	1	46	1	48 / 26%	12 / 6%
Beaufort	966	462	40	502 / 52%	7	348	12	367 / 38%	97 / 10%
Colleton	667	355	20	375 / 56%	9	216	21	246 / 37%	46 / 7%
Hampton	231	141	7	148 / 64%	0	39	5	44 / 19%	39 / 17%
Jasper	306	149	13	162 / 53%	3	103	2	108 / 35%	36 / 12%
14TH CIRCUIT	2,355	1,228	84	1,312 / 56%	20	752	41	813 / 35%	230 / 10%
Georgetown	590	390	25	415 / 70%	5	164	1	170 / 29%	5 / 1%
Horry	2,088	1,385	42	1,427 / 68%	17	580	15	612 / 29%	49 / 2%
15TH CIRCUIT	2,678	1,775	67	1,842 / 69%	22	744	16	782 / 29%	54 / 2%
Union	553	416	5	421 / 76%	1	55	21	77 / 14%	55 / 10%
York	2,388	1,666	80	1,746 / 73%	16	483	67	566 / 24%	76 / 3%
16TH CIRCUIT	2,941	2,082	85	2,167 / 74%	17	538	88	643 / 22%	131 / 4%
STATEWIDE	46,859	30,248	1,351	31,599 / 67%	375	11,840	515	12,730 / 27%	2,530 / 5%

From CRM 90, run 02/28/87

*Includes cases disposed as "Prosecution Ended"

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

Age of Pending Indictments

The number of indictments still pending at the end of 1986 rose nearly 30% from the number pending only a year earlier; however, 79% of the indictments were aged 180 days or less since the date of arrest, a six percentage point improvement over 1985. By administrative order of the Chief Justice, all indictments aged more than 180 days from the arrest date must be given priority attention by the courts. More than 40% of the indictments pending more than 180 days are on contingent docket or involve a defendant participating in a pre-trial intervention program.

The report on the following page shows, for each circuit and county, the number of indictments pending as of December 31, 1986, and the number of cases in each of the various age categories.

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER AND AGE OF CASES PENDING IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

Year	Total Pending End of Year	Pending 180 Days Or Less From Date of Filing (Cases / %)	Pending 180 Days Or Less From Date of Arrest (Cases / %)
1978	8,672	3,625 / 42%	
1979	7,628	3,701 / 49%	
1980	8,215	3,855 / 47%	
1981	6,600	2,891 / 44%	
1982	8,074	3,866 / 48%	
1983	6,127	4,174 / 68%	3,197 / 52%
1984	4,399		3,228 / 73%
1985	4,188		3,074 / 73%
1986	5,417		4,258 / 79%

NOTE: Measurement of the age of pending of indictments by date of arrest was not available until 1983. After 1983, measurement of age by date of filing is not available.

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Calhoun	60	14 / 23%	40 / 67%	54 / 90%	6 / 10%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	12	10	2	12	0	0	0	0
True Billed	48	4	38	42	6	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorchester	61	32 / 52%	25 / 41%	57 / 93%	2 / 3%	0 / 0%	1 / 2%	1 / 2%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	60	32	25	57	2	0	1	0
Cont. Docket	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orangeburg	59	40 / 68%	14 / 24%	54 / 92%	3 / 5%	0 / 0%	2 / 3%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
True Billed	58	39	14	53	3	0	2	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1ST CIRCUIT	180	86 / 48%	79 / 44%	165 / 92%	11 / 6%	0 / 0%	3 / 2%	1 / 1%
Prefiled	13	11	2	13	0	0	0	0
True Billed	166	75	77	152	11	0	3	0
Cont. Docket	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aiken	15	12 / 80%	3 / 20%	15 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	0
True Billed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	11	8	3	11	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Bamberg	10	10 / 100%	0 / 0%	10 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	10	10	0	10	0	0	0	0
True Billed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnwell	4	3 / 75%	1 / 25%	4 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
True Billed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2ND CIRCUIT	29	25 / 86%	4 / 14%	29 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	17	17	0	17	0	0	0	0
True Billed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	12	8	4	12	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clarendon	20	0 / 0%	6 / 30%	6 / 30%	6 / 30%	6 / 30%	2 / 10%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	5	0	3	3	2	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	15	0	3	3	4	6	2	0
Lee	13	1 / 8%	3 / 23%	4 / 31%	8 / 62%	1 / 8%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	10	0	2	2	7	1	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Sumter	147	49 / 33%	56 / 38%	105 / 71%	28 / 19%	10 / 7%	3 / 2%	1 / 1%
Prefiled	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
True Billed	64	39	22	61	1	1	1	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	81	9	33	42	27	9	2	1
Williamsburg	72	18 / 25%	34 / 47%	52 / 72%	16 / 22%	4 / 6%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	53	17	28	45	7	1	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	19	1	6	7	9	3	0	0
3RD CIRCUIT	252	68 / 27%	99 / 39%	167 / 66%	58 / 23%	21 / 8%	5 / 2%	1 / 0%
Prefiled	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
True Billed	125	57	54	111	11	2	1	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	125	10	44	54	47	19	4	1
Chesterfield	33	16 / 48%	16 / 48%	32 / 97%	1 / 3%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	15	8	6	14	1	0	0	0
True Billed	14	7	7	14	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	4	1	3	4	0	0	0	0
Darlington	67	57 / 85%	8 / 12%	65 / 97%	1 / 1%	1 / 1%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	9	6	3	9	0	0	0	0
True Billed	58	51	5	56	1	1	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Dillon	43	15 / 35%	22 / 51%	37 / 86%	6 / 14%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	34	14	19	33	1	0	0	0
True Billed	6	0	1	1	5	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	3	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
Marlboro	127	103 / 81%	24 / 19%	127 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	65	47	18	65	0	0	0	0
True Billed	55	54	1	55	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	7	2	5	7	0	0	0	0
4TH CIRCUIT	270	191 / 71%	70 / 26%	261 / 97%	8 / 3%	1 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	123	75	46	121	2	0	0	0
True Billed	133	112	14	126	6	1	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	14	4	10	14	0	0	0	0
Kershaw	65	7 / 11%	51 / 78%	58 / 89%	7 / 11%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	61	7	48	55	6	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	4	0	3	3	1	0	0	0
Richland	835	73 / 9%	641 / 77%	714 / 86%	117 / 14%	3 / 0%	1 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
True Billed	834	73	640	713	117	3	1	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
5TH CIRCUIT	900	80 / 9%	692 / 77%	772 / 86%	124 / 14%	3 / 0%	1 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
True Billed	895	80	688	768	123	3	1	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	4	0	3	3	1	0	0	0
Chester	0	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairfield	0	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR	0 / ERR
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancaster	6	5 / 83%	1 / 17%	6 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	6	5	1	6	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6TH CIRCUIT	6	5 / 83%	1 / 17%	6 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	6	5	1	6	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Cherokee	94	21 / 22%	72 / 77%	93 / 99%	1 / 1%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	94	21	72	93	1	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spartanburg	530	82 / 15%	386 / 73%	468 / 88%	56 / 11%	4 / 1%	0 / 0%	2 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	530	82	386	468	56	4	0	2
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7TH CIRCUIT	624	103 / 17%	458 / 73%	561 / 90%	57 / 9%	4 / 1%	0 / 0%	2 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	624	103	458	561	57	4	0	2
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abbeville	33	9 / 27%	8 / 24%	17 / 52%	14 / 42%	2 / 6%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	14	6	4	10	4	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	19	3	4	7	10	2	0	0
Greenwood	70	37 / 53%	24 / 34%	61 / 87%	9 / 13%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	24	21	2	23	1	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	46	16	22	38	8	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Laurens	55	11 / 20%	31 / 56%	42 / 76%	5 / 9%	8 / 15%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	14	5	9	14	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	41	6	22	28	5	8	0	0
Newberry	21	5 / 24%	12 / 57%	17 / 81%	4 / 19%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	14	5	9	14	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	7	0	3	3	4	0	0	0
8TH CIRCUIT	179	62 / 35%	75 / 42%	137 / 77%	32 / 18%	10 / 6%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	66	37	24	61	5	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	113	25	51	76	27	10	0	0
Berkeley	84	46 / 55%	23 / 27%	69 / 82%	15 / 18%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	24	23	0	23	1	0	0	0
True Billed	17	9	7	16	1	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	43	14	16	30	13	0	0	0
Charleston	834	195 / 23%	538 / 65%	733 / 88%	75 / 9%	26 / 3%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	47	20	25	45	0	2	0	0
True Billed	443	132	288	420	22	1	0	0
Cont. Docket	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
P.T.I.	343	43	225	268	53	22	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
9TH CIRCUIT	918	241 / 26%	561 / 61%	802 / 87%	90 / 10%	26 / 3%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	71	43	25	68	1	2	0	0
True Billed	460	141	295	436	23	1	0	0
Cont. Docket	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
P.T.I.	386	57	241	298	66	22	0	0
Anderson	203	15 / 7%	124 / 61%	139 / 68%	54 / 27%	6 / 3%	3 / 1%	1 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	201	15	124	139	54	4	3	1
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Oconee	57	9 / 16%	29 / 51%	38 / 67%	16 / 28%	3 / 5%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
True Billed	54	9	28	37	14	3	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10TH CIRCUIT	260	24 / 9%	153 / 59%	177 / 68%	70 / 27%	9 / 3%	3 / 1%	1 / 0%
Prefiled	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
True Billed	255	24	152	176	68	7	3	1
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Edgefield	12	0 / 0%	7 / 58%	7 / 58%	3 / 25%	1 / 8%	0 / 0%	1 / 8%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	12	0	7	7	3	1	0	1
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Lexington	250	66 / 26%	120 / 48%	186 / 74%	44 / 18%	19 / 8%	1 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
True Billed	249	65	120	185	44	19	1	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McCormick	5	2 / 40%	3 / 60%	5 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	5	2	3	5	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saluda	6	2 / 33%	4 / 67%	6 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	6	2	4	6	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11TH CIRCUIT	273	70 / 26%	134 / 49%	204 / 75%	47 / 17%	20 / 7%	1 / 0%	1 / 0%
Prefiled	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
True Billed	272	69	134	203	47	20	1	1
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florence	10	0 / 0%	7 / 70%	7 / 70%	2 / 20%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	1 / 10%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	10	0	7	7	2	0	0	1
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Marion	5	0 / 0%	5 / 100%	5 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	5	0	5	5	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12TH CIRCUIT	15	0 / 0%	12 / 80%	12 / 80%	2 / 13%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	1 / 7%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	15	0	12	12	2	0	0	1
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greenville	496	36 / 7%	266 / 54%	302 / 61%	134 / 27%	34 / 7%	9 / 2%	17 / 3%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	425	36	261	297	123	5	0	0
Cont. Docket	71	0	5	5	11	29	9	17
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pickens	77	9 / 12%	58 / 75%	67 / 87%	9 / 12%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	1 / 1%
Prefiled	5	2	1	3	2	0	0	0
True Billed	58	7	44	51	7	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	14	0	13	13	0	0	0	1
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13TH CIRCUIT	573	45 / 8%	324 / 57%	369 / 64%	143 / 25%	34 / 6%	9 / 2%	18 / 3%
Prefiled	5	2	1	3	2	0	0	0
True Billed	483	43	305	348	130	5	0	0
Cont. Docket	85	0	18	18	11	29	9	18
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Allendale	43	0 / 0%	16 / 37%	16 / 37%	13 / 30%	7 / 16%	7 / 16%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	17	0	9	9	6	2	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	26	0	7	7	7	5	7	0
Beaufort	259	56 / 22%	79 / 31%	135 / 52%	73 / 28%	26 / 10%	21 / 8%	4 / 2%
Prefiled	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
True Billed	109	36	28	64	43	2	0	0
Cont. Docket	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
P.T.I.	148	20	51	71	29	24	21	3
Colleton	138	35 / 25%	51 / 37%	86 / 62%	25 / 18%	19 / 14%	6 / 4%	2 / 1%
Prefiled	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
True Billed	74	31	33	64	8	2	0	0
Cont. Docket	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
P.T.I.	62	4	18	22	16	17	5	2
Hampton	41	4 / 10%	20 / 49%	24 / 59%	7 / 17%	2 / 5%	1 / 2%	7 / 17%
Prefiled	14	3	11	14	0	0	0	0
True Billed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	27	1	9	10	7	2	1	7
Jasper	92	11 / 12%	25 / 27%	36 / 39%	25 / 27%	17 / 18%	11 / 12%	3 / 3%
Prefiled	7	2	5	7	0	0	0	0
True Billed	36	5	13	18	9	8	1	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	49	4	7	11	16	9	10	3

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
14TH CIRCUIT	573	106 / 18%	191 / 33%	297 / 52%	143 / 25%	71 / 12%	46 / 8%	16 / 3%
Prefiled	23	5	16	21	1	0	1	0
True Billed	236	72	83	155	66	14	1	0
Cont. Docket	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
P.T.I.	312	29	92	121	75	57	44	15
Georgetown	40	9 / 23%	27 / 68%	36 / 90%	0 / 0%	1 / 3%	0 / 0%	3 / 8%
Prefiled	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
True Billed	39	9	26	35	0	1	0	3
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horry	180	75 / 42%	80 / 44%	155 / 86%	17 / 9%	6 / 3%	2 / 1%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	158	64	70	134	16	6	2	0
True Billed	22	11	10	21	1	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15TH CIRCUIT	220	84 / 38%	107 / 49%	191 / 87%	17 / 8%	7 / 3%	2 / 1%	3 / 1%
Prefiled	159	64	71	135	16	6	2	0
True Billed	61	20	36	56	1	1	0	3
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union	30	20 / 67%	7 / 23%	27 / 90%	3 / 10%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
True Billed	30	20	7	27	3	0	0	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

South Carolina Court Administration
Age of Pending Indictments From Date of Arrest
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 90 DAYS	91 - 180 DAYS	TOTAL 180 DAYS OR LESS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
York	115	52 / 45%	29 / 25%	81 / 70%	22 / 19%	8 / 7%	4 / 3%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
True Billed	59	41	17	58	0	0	1	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	55	11	11	22	22	8	3	0
16TH CIRCUIT	145	72 / 50%	36 / 25%	108 / 74%	25 / 17%	8 / 6%	4 / 3%	0 / 0%
Prefiled	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
True Billed	89	61	24	85	3	0	1	0
Cont. Docket	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
P.T.I.	55	11	11	22	22	8	3	0
STATEWIDE	5,417	1,262 / 23%	2,996 / 55%	4,258 / 79%	827 / 15%	214 / 4%	74 / 1%	44 / 1%
Prefiled	419	219	165	384	24	8	3	0
True Billed	3,886	899	2,357	3,256	553	58	11	8
Cont. Docket	101	8	22	30	12	30	9	20
P.T.I.	1,011	136	452	588	238	118	51	16

From CRM 75, run 02/28/87

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

Dispositions for Selected Offenses

The report on the following pages shows the number of dispositions for a selected group of offenses. Selection was based upon every offense with at least 120 dispositions during 1986; offenses are listed in order of most dispositions.

For each offense listed, the total number of dispositions is listed, followed by that offense's share of the statewide total of dispositions. For example, the 5,157 dispositions for DUI, 2nd Offense is 11.01% of the 46,859 indictments disposed during the year. Also, for each offense, the number of dispositions is broken down into categories of convictions, non-convictions and other dispositions. Each category shows the number and percentage share for that offense. As another example, convictions were obtained in DUI, 2nd Offense cases 3,536 times or 69% of the time.

South Carolina Court Administration
General Sessions Dispositions for Selected Offenses
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

NAME OF OFFENSE AND S. C. CODE SECTION	TOTAL DISPOSED (Number / %)	CONVICTIONS (Number / %)	NON- CONVICTIONS (Number / %)	OTHER DISPOSITIONS (Number / %)
D.U.I., 2nd Off; 56-5-2940(2)	5,157 / 11.01%	3,536 / 69%	1,285 / 25%	336 / 7%
Forgery; 16-13-10	3,543 / 7.56%	2,799 / 79%	593 / 17%	151 / 4%
Burglary, 2nd Degree CHARGED AFTER 6/20/85; 16-11-312	2,841 / 6.06%	2,053 / 72%	629 / 22%	159 / 6%
Grand Larceny; C/L	2,596 / 5.54%	1,830 / 70%	634 / 24%	132 / 5%
D.U.S., 2nd Off; 56-1-460	2,101 / 4.49%	1,430 / 68%	553 / 26%	118 / 6%
D.U.S., 3rd Off and Above; 56-1-460	1,348 / 2.88%	872 / 65%	378 / 28%	98 / 7%
Possession of Other Drugs (Sched. I, II or III) w/ Intent to Distribute, 1st Off; 44-53-370(b)(2)	1,330 / 2.84%	864 / 65%	408 / 31%	58 / 4%
Assault and Battery of High and Aggravated Nature; C/L	1,330 / 2.84%	798 / 60%	472 / 35%	60 / 5%
Failure To Stop For Officer (Blue Light); 56-5-750	1,139 / 2.43%	745 / 65%	314 / 28%	80 / 7%
D.U.I., 3rd Off; 56-5-2940(3)	1,091 / 2.33%	732 / 67%	321 / 29%	38 / 3%
Carrying Pistol Unlawfully; 16-23-20	964 / 2.06%	621 / 64%	269 / 28%	74 / 8%
Resisting Arrest or Service of Process; 16-9-320(a)	948 / 2.02%	652 / 69%	253 / 27%	43 / 5%
Receiving Stolen Goods (more than \$100); 16-13-180	816 / 1.74%	503 / 62%	281 / 34%	32 / 4%
Burglary, 3rd Degree CHARGED AFTER 6/20/85; 16-11-313	800 / 1.71%	572 / 72%	182 / 23%	46 / 6%
Possession/manufacture of LSD or Cocaine w/ Intent To Distribute, 1st Off; 44-53-370(d)(1)	767 / 1.64%	500 / 65%	229 / 30%	38 / 5%
Breaking into Automobiles or Fuel Tanks; 16-13-160	745 / 1.59%	555 / 74%	169 / 23%	21 / 3%
Fraudulent Use of Checks, 1st Off; 34-11-60	744 / 1.59%	537 / 72%	174 / 23%	33 / 4%
Breach of Trust With Fraudulent Intent; 16-13-230	611 / 1.30%	391 / 64%	170 / 28%	50 / 8%
Shoplifting, 3rd Off and Above; 16-13-110(B)(3)	544 / 1.16%	348 / 64%	156 / 29%	40 / 7%
Possession of LSD or Cocaine, 1st Off; 44-53-370(d)(1)	520 / 1.11%	367 / 71%	132 / 25%	21 / 4%
Shoplifting, 2nd Off; 16-13-110(B)(2)	492 / 1.05%	335 / 68%	136 / 28%	21 / 4%
Burglary CHARGED BEFORE 6/20/85; 16-11-310	474 / 1.01%	292 / 62%	119 / 25%	63 / 13%
Burglary, 1st Degree; 16-11-311	466 / 0.99%	308 / 66%	136 / 29%	22 / 5%
Poss. of Marijuana or Hashish, 1st Off; 44-53-370 (d)(2)	455 / 0.97%	293 / 64%	145 / 32%	17 / 4%
Malicious Injury to Personal Property; 16-11-510	439 / 0.94%	315 / 72%	113 / 26%	11 / 3%
Shoplifting, 1st Off; 16-13-110(B)(1)	433 / 0.92%	274 / 63%	150 / 35%	9 / 2%
Armed Robbery; 16-11-330	420 / 0.90%	295 / 70%	115 / 27%	10 / 2%
Use of Car Without Owner's Consent; 16-21-60(1)(2)	405 / 0.86%	253 / 62%	116 / 29%	36 / 9%
Poss. of Marijuana or Hashish, 2nd+ Off; 44-53-370 (d)(2)	376 / 0.80%	254 / 68%	101 / 27%	21 / 6%
Assault and Battery w/ Intent to Kill; 16-3-620	374 / 0.80%	221 / 59%	141 / 38%	12 / 3%
Criminal Conspiracy; 16-17-410	368 / 0.79%	258 / 70%	97 / 26%	13 / 4%

South Carolina Court Administration
General Sessions Dispositions for Selected Offenses
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

NAME OF OFFENSE AND S. C. CODE SECTION	TOTAL DISPOSED (Number / %)	CONVICTIONS (Number / %)	NON- CONVICTIONS (Number / %)	OTHER DISPOSITIONS (Number / %)
Escape (recaptured in state); 24-13-410	357 / 0.76%	246 / 69%	71 / 20%	40 / 11%
Habitual Traffic Offender, Violation of Status; 56-1-1100	343 / 0.73%	248 / 72%	80 / 23%	15 / 4%
Lewd Act on Child Under 14; 16-15-140	320 / 0.68%	194 / 61%	111 / 35%	15 / 5%
Robbery, Strong Arm; C/L	302 / 0.64%	199 / 66%	67 / 22%	36 / 12%
Distribution of Drugs, to/from persons over 18; 44-53-440	273 / 0.58%	168 / 62%	100 / 37%	5 / 2%
Obtaining Money/Prop Under False Pretenses; 16-13-240	265 / 0.57%	195 / 74%	64 / 24%	6 / 2%
D.U.I., 4th Off and Above; 56-5-2940(4)	260 / 0.56%	170 / 65%	61 / 23%	29 / 11%
Burglary, 3rd Degree and Grand Larceny; 16-11-313, C/L	257 / 0.55%	187 / 73%	60 / 23%	10 / 4%
Accessory to a Felony, After the fact; 17-25-20	245 / 0.52%	156 / 64%	78 / 32%	11 / 4%
Pointing a Firearm; 16-23-410	233 / 0.50%	125 / 54%	95 / 41%	13 / 6%
Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor; 16-17-490	228 / 0.49%	134 / 59%	76 / 33%	18 / 8%
Criminal Sexual Conduct w/ Minors; 16-3-655	198 / 0.42%	104 / 53%	91 / 46%	3 / 2%
Criminal Sexual Conduct, 1st Degree; 16-3-652	191 / 0.41%	109 / 57%	75 / 39%	7 / 4%
Malicious Injury to Real Property; 16-11-520	187 / 0.40%	102 / 55%	62 / 33%	23 / 12%
Credit Card Fraud, Generally; 16-14-60	181 / 0.39%	151 / 83%	26 / 14%	4 / 2%
Assault of High and Aggravated Nature; C/L	180 / 0.38%	94 / 52%	70 / 39%	16 / 9%
Murder; 16-3-10	179 / 0.38%	98 / 55%	68 / 38%	13 / 7%
Simple Possession (small amount) of Marijuana/Hashish, 2nd offense and above; 44-53-370(d) (3)	173 / 0.37%	92 / 53%	78 / 45%	3 / 2%
Failure to Return Rented Tools; 16-13-420	171 / 0.37%	105 / 61%	60 / 35%	6 / 4%
Manslaughter, Voluntary; 16-3-50	169 / 0.36%	96 / 57%	64 / 38%	9 / 5%
Obtaining Certain Drugs by Fraud; 44-53-40	159 / 0.34%	129 / 81%	26 / 16%	4 / 3%
Conspiracy or Attempt to Commit Drug Offense; 44-53-420	149 / 0.32%	96 / 64%	50 / 34%	3 / 2%
D.U.I., When Serious Injury or Death Result; 56-5-2945	145 / 0.31%	88 / 61%	51 / 35%	6 / 4%
Larceny, petit (\$200 or less); 16-13-30	139 / 0.30%	101 / 73%	34 / 24%	4 / 3%
Possession of Other Drugs (Sched. I, II or III) w/ Intent to Distribute, 2nd Off; 44-53-370(b) (2)	132 / 0.28%	87 / 66%	33 / 25%	12 / 9%
Food Stamp Fraud when value is \$1000 or more; 16-13-430	131 / 0.28%	92 / 70%	33 / 25%	6 / 5%
Assault Law Officer While Resisting Arrest; 16-9-320-(b)	127 / 0.27%	71 / 56%	49 / 39%	7 / 6%
Cocaine, poss., between 10 & 28 grams; 44-53-370(e) (2) (a)	125 / 0.27%	63 / 50%	52 / 42%	10 / 8%
Obscene Telephone Calls; 16-17-430(1) (2) (3)	123 / 0.26%	91 / 74%	23 / 19%	9 / 7%

FROM CRM 115, run 02/17/87

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Filings and Dispositions

The tremendous increase in Common Pleas filings continued into 1986. During the past two years, filings have grown by 26%.

A record number of civil cases were disposed during 1986; the 50,475 dispositions is 11.2% more than the number of cases disposed during 1985. The large number of dispositions however, failed to match the even higher number of filings, and the result is that the number of cases pending at the end of 1986 rose to 23,647.

In the report which follows on the next pages, the number of cases filed and disposed during 1985 is listed by circuit and by county.

YEARLY CHANGE IN COMMON PLEAS CASES: FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

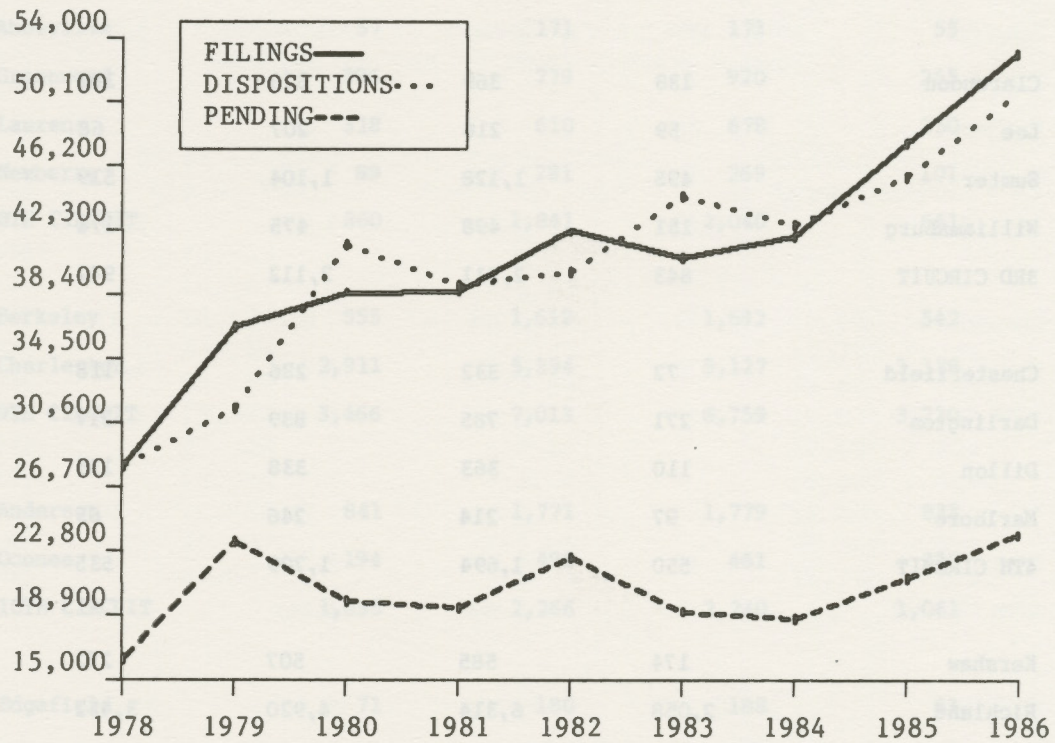
Year	Filed	Yearly Change (Cases / %)	Disposed	Yearly Change (Cases / %)
1976	26,257		33,239	
1977	29,259	+3,002 / +11.4%	28,905	-4,334 / -13.0%
1978	27,840	-1,149 / - 4.8%	27,871	-1,034 / - 3.6%
1979	36,349	+8,509 / +30.6%	31,368	+3,497 / +12.5%
1980	38,359	+2,010 / + 5.5%	41,330	+9,962 / +31.8%
1981	38,465	+ 106 / + 0.3%	38,909	-2,421 / - 5.9%
1982	42,233	+3,768 / + 9.8%	39,691	+ 782 / + 2.0%
1983	40,498	-1,735 / - 4.1%	44,249	+4,558 / +11.5%
1984	41,835	+1,337 / + 3.3%	42,528	-1,721 / - 3.9%
1985	47,466	+5,631 / +13.5%	45,389	+2,861 / + 6.7%
1986	52,895	+5,429 / +11.4%	50,475	+5,086 / +11.2%

COMMON PLEAS TERMS HELD

Year	Terms Held	Yearly Change (Terms / %)	Year	Terms Held	Yearly Change (Terms / %)
1978	552		1983	783.8	-21.6 / - 2.7%
1979	561.2	+ 9.2 / + 1.7%	1984	763.4	-20.4 / - 2.6%
1980	733.6	+172.4 / +30.7%	1985	732.2	-31.2 / - 4.1%
1981	702.8	- 30.8 / - 4.2%	1986	815.8	+83.6 / +11.4%
1982	805.4	+102.6 / +14.6%			

COURT: Common Pleas

YEAR	FILINGS	DISPOSITIONS	PENDING END OF YEAR
1978	27,840	27,871	16,136
1979	36,349	31,368	23,282
1980	38,359	41,330	19,690
1981	38,465	38,909	19,282
1982	42,233	39,691	22,328
1983	40,498	44,249	18,985
1984	41,835	42,528	18,628
1985	47,466	45,389	21,037
1986	52,895	50,475	23,647



South Carolina Court Administration
Common Pleas Workload Report
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	PENDING FIRST OF PERIOD	FILED DURING PERIOD	DISPOSED DURING PERIOD	PENDING END OF PERIOD
Calhoun	47	120	117	50
Dorchester	347	987	970	364
Orangeburg	459	1,107	1,182	384
1ST CIRCUIT	853	2,214	2,269	798
Aiken	257	1,195	1,163	289
Bamberg	60	198	215	43
Barnwell	49	274	273	50
2ND CIRCUIT	366	1,667	1,651	382
Clarendon	138	369	326	181
Lee	59	216	207	68
Sumter	495	1,128	1,104	519
Williamsburg	151	498	475	174
3RD CIRCUIT	843	2,211	2,112	942
Chesterfield	72	332	286	118
Darlington	271	785	839	217
Dillon	110	363	338	135
Marlboro	97	214	246	65
4TH CIRCUIT	550	1,694	1,709	535
Kershaw	174	585	507	252
Richland	2,058	6,314	4,920	3,452
5TH CIRCUIT	2,232	6,899	5,427	3,704

South Carolina Court Administration
Common Pleas Workload Report
January 1, 1986 - December 31, 1986

COUNTY	PENDING FIRST OF PERIOD	FILED DURING PERIOD	DISPOSED DURING PERIOD	PENDING END OF PERIOD
Chester	69	248	276	41
Fairfield	77	220	244	53
Lancaster	109	575	606	78
6TH CIRCUIT	255	1,043	1,126	172
Cherokee	117	499	451	165
Spartanburg	1,412	2,775	2,879	1,308
7TH CIRCUIT	1,529	3,274	3,330	1,473
Abbeville	57	171	173	55
Greenwood	396	779	920	255
Laurens	318	610	678	250
Newberry	89	281	269	101
8TH CIRCUIT	860	1,841	2,040	661
Berkeley	555	1,619	1,632	542
Charleston	2,911	5,394	5,127	3,178
9TH CIRCUIT	3,466	7,013	6,759	3,720
Anderson	841	1,771	1,779	833
Oconee	194	495	461	228
10TH CIRCUIT	1,035	2,266	2,240	1,061
Edgefield	71	180	188	63
Lexington	859	3036	2912	983
McCormick	49	61	85	25
Saluda	74	132	164	42
11TH CIRCUIT	1,053	3,409	3,349	1,113

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Florence	789	1,904	1,913	780
Marion	159	450	392	217
12TH CIRCUIT	948	2,354	2,305	997
Greenville	2,265	6,304	6,086	2,483
Pickens	357	793	805	345
13TH CIRCUIT	2,622	7,097	6,891	2,828
Allendale	63	153	147	69
Beaufort	1008	2136	1956	1,188
Colleton	225	626	577	274
Hampton	155	393	423	125
Jasper	146	310	345	111
14TH CIRCUIT	1,597	3,618	3,448	1,767
Georgetown	273	734	688	319
Horry	2,232	4,158	3,788	2,602
15TH CIRCUIT	2,505	4,892	4,476	2,921
Union	72	229	201	100
York	441	1,174	1,142	473
16TH CIRCUIT	513	1,403	1,343	573
STATEWIDE	21,227	52,895	50,475	23,647

From CAC 60, run 02/28/87

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Age of Pending Cases

The Courts of Common Pleas maintained the excellent status of their dockets as reflected by the age of the cases pending at the end of the year. In spite of the large increase in filings during 1985 and 1986, by the end of the year 98% of the cases were aged one year or less. The success of disposing of nearly every common pleas case within one year of filing is due in large part to an administrative policy of the Chief Justice which requires the courts to give priority attention to all cases aged more than one year from the date of filing. Many circuit judges have extended the priority to cases aged more than nine months. For the past three years, 90% of the pending cases were nine months old or less.

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER AND AGE OF CASES PENDING IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Year	Total Pending End of Year	% Change From Previous Year	Pending 365 Days or Less (Number / %)
1976	15,813		
1977	16,167	+ 2.2%	
1978	16,136	- 0.2%	12,800 / 79%
1979	23,282	+44.3%	17,329 / 74%
1980	19,690	-15.4%	15,680 / 80%
1981	19,282	- 2.1%	16,821 / 87%
1982	22,328	+15.8%	19,820 / 89%
1983	18,985	-15.0%	18,061 / 95%
1984	18,628	- 1.9%	18,200 / 98%
1985	21,037	+12.9%	20,505 / 97%
1986	23,647	+12.4%	23,265 / 98%

South Carolina Court Administration
Common Pleas Age of Pending Cases Report
Pending as of December 31, 1986

COUNTY	TOTAL PENDING	0 - 120 DAYS	121 - 180 DAYS	181 - 270 DAYS	271 - 365 DAYS	TOTAL 365 DAYS OR LESS	366 - 540 DAYS	541 DAYS OR MORE
Calhoun	50	35 / 70%	10 / 20%	4 / 8%	1 / 2%	50 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	19	9	6	4	0	19	0	0
Nonjury	31	26	4	0	1	31	0	0
Dorchester	364	255 / 70%	61 / 17%	41 / 11%	2 / 1%	359 / 99%	3 / 1%	2 / 1%
Jury	116	69	24	18	2	113	2	1
Nonjury	248	186	37	23	0	246	1	1
Orangeburg	384	256 / 67%	62 / 16%	38 / 10%	18 / 5%	374 / 97%	9 / 2%	1 / 0%
Jury	132	76	35	14	6	131	1	0
Nonjury	252	180	27	24	12	243	8	1
1ST CIRCUIT	798	546 / 68%	133 / 17%	83 / 10%	21 / 3%	783 / 98%	12 / 2%	3 / 0%
Jury	267	154	65	36	8	263	3	1
Nonjury	531	392	68	47	13	520	9	2
Aiken	289	272 / 94%	15 / 5%	2 / 1%	0 / 0%	289 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	91	82	9	0	0	91	0	0
Nonjury	198	190	6	2	0	198	0	0
Bamberg	43	33 / 77%	10 / 23%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	43 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	24	17	7	0	0	24	0	0
Nonjury	19	16	3	0	0	19	0	0
Barnwell	50	48 / 96%	1 / 2%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%	49 / 98%	1 / 2%	0 / 0%
Jury	23	22	0	0	0	22	1	0
Nonjury	27	26	1	0	0	27	0	0
2ND CIRCUIT	382	353 / 92%	26 / 7%	2 / 1%	0 / 0%	381 / 100%	1 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	138	121	16	0	0	137	1	0
Nonjury	244	232	10	2	0	244	0	0

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Clarendon	181	112 / 62%	46 / 25%	21 / 12%	2 / 1%	181 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	94	53	31	9	1	94	0	0
Nonjury	87	59	15	12	1	87	0	0
Lee	68	57 / 84%	8 / 12%	2 / 3%	1 / 1%	68 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	24	18	4	1	1	24	0	0
Nonjury	44	39	4	1	0	44	0	0
Sumter	519	274 / 53%	95 / 18%	99 / 19%	46 / 9%	514 / 99%	5 / 1%	0 / 0%
Jury	312	126	63	82	40	311	1	0
Nonjury	207	148	32	17	6	203	4	0
Williamsburg	174	127 / 73%	24 / 14%	17 / 10%	6 / 3%	174 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	77	42	19	14	2	77	0	0
Nonjury	97	85	5	3	4	97	0	0
3RD CIRCUIT	942	570 / 61%	173 / 18%	139 / 15%	55 / 6%	937 / 99%	5 / 1%	0 / 0%
Jury	507	239	117	106	44	506	1	0
Nonjury	435	331	56	33	11	431	4	0
Chesterfield	118	80 / 68%	19 / 16%	19 / 16%	0 / 0%	118 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	61	33	13	15	0	61	0	0
Nonjury	57	47	6	4	0	57	0	0
Darlington	217	156 / 72%	34 / 16%	22 / 10%	5 / 2%	217 / 100%	0 / 0%	0 / 0%
Jury	111	77	20	11	3	111	0	0
Nonjury	106	79	14	11	2	106	0	0